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point of view, and decidedly inconvenient from a practical one, especially as our reservoir capacity is not quite adequate. E. S. H.

Rainfall at Mount Hamilton in the Years 1880-89.

MONTH.	1880-81	1881-82	1882-83	1883-84	1884-85	1885-86	1886-87	1887-88	1888-89
	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.	in.
July	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.00
August	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
September . .	0.00	0.10	0.00	0.65	0.65	0.15	0.00	0.33	0.49
October	0.00	0.33	6.16	2.15	3.71	0.05	0.60	0.09	0.03
November*	0.50	0.91	3.45	1.48	0.01	—	2.82	0.90	3.27
December . . .	9.68	9.72	1.93	2.05	33.84	—	2.34	11.25	4.23
January	3.51	3.55	3.10	5.60	1.99	—	2.83	10.04	1.04
February . . .	5.99	2.90	3.75	12.76	0.57	1.80	7.80	1.38	1.42
March	1.13	5.40	8.66	16.35	1.15	5.77	1.39	3.40	6.17
April	0.98	4.70	2.66	11.96	2.08	6.79	5.75	0.68	1.92
May	0.09	0.48	7.55	1.24	0.16	0.70	0.25	1.25	3.21
June	0.33	1.06	0.00	3.85	0.36	0.00	0.30	0.67	0.00
Sums	22.21	29.15	37.26	58.09	44.67	—	24.08	30.03	21.80

* November, 1880—One shower, amount assumed to be 0th.50. N. B. December, 1884.

Mean annual rainfall (8 years), *July to July* = 33.41 in.

GREAT TELESCOPE FOR LOS ANGELES.

Authentic information regarding the proposed forty-inch refractor for Wilson's Peak is difficult to obtain. A newspaper report of an interview with Mr. A. G. CLARK on September 28, recites that one of the discs (now on exhibition at Paris) will probably arrive in Boston in October. The other disc is not yet cast, and M. MANTOIS is, apparently, not willing to undertake the work without a contract, which is not yet executed. The Trustees of the Fund have, so it is said, authorized Mr. CLARK to pay \$10,000 for two satisfactory forty-inch discs, which is not an unreasonable price by any means. Mr. CLARK offered to make the objective and the mounting for \$100,000, during his visit to California in the winter of 1888-9. So far as is now known, the fund available for the telescope does not yet exceed \$150,000. Probably \$300,000 to \$400,000 would build and equip the observatory.

E. S. H.

FORCE OF GRAVITY AT MT. HAMILTON AND SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. E. D. PRESTON of the U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey has published his report on gravity determinations in the Pacific Ocean (*Bulletin* No. 11, U. S. C. and G. S., 1889). The force of gravity at Washington being 1.000000, that at San Francisco (Professor DAVIDSON's Observatory) is 0.999854 and at the Lick Observatory it is 0.999544. Determinations of g at four stations in the Hawaiian Islands and for a station at Caroline Island are also given. E. S. H.

LICK OBSERVATORY PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE MOON.

Knowledge for October 1, 1889, contains an article by the editor (Mr. RANYARD), on the Moon as seen in the Lick Telescope. Excellent reproductions of five silver prints made by the Direct Photo-Engraving Company of London, accompany the article. Mr. RANYARD's remarks upon the temperature of the moon and upon the possibility of the existence of snow-fields on its surface, are well worth close attention. E. S. H.

AMERICAN ECLIPSE EXPEDITION TO AFRICA (DECEMBER 21, 1889).

The New York *Sun*, for October 17, has an account of the sailing of the U. S. S. *Pensacola* with the American Eclipse Expedition to Africa. The expedition is under Professor D. P. TODD, of Amherst College, as chief astronomer. His astronomical assistants are Messrs. BIGELOW, DAVIS and JACOBI. Mr. CARBUTT goes as photographer, with Mr. WRIGHT as his assistant; Mr. E. J. LOOMIS as naturalist; Professor ABBE as meteorologist, with G. E. VAN GUYSLING as assistant; Mr. PRESTON as the observer of magnetism and for determinations of gravity; Mr. W. H. BROWN as osteologist and naturalist, with his brother as assistant; Mr. ORR as ethnologist and ornithologist; H. CHATELAINE as interpreter; G. T. FLINT as stenographer, and Dr. BARTLETT as apothecary! Add to these names that of Professor ALEX. AGASSIZ, who may join the vessel at Cape Town to engage in deep-sea dredging. This is carrying the war into Africa, indeed. The newspaper account of the astronomical outfit is somewhat meagre. It appears that the expedition is provided with a photoheliograph, giving an image of the sun four inches in diameter. With this the partial phases will be photographed on *ortho-chromatic* plates (No. 16) and the total phase on *ortho-chromatic* plates (No. 27). A large mirror, belonging to Professor LANGLEY,